

A BIG SOLUTION FOR BIG SKY



In 1973, Big Sky Resort opened for its first season and the bridges over the Gallatin River on US 191 and MT 64 (Lone Mountain Trail) were there to carry skiers and travelers. These same bridges have assisted the community's growth in becoming the bustling destination that it is today. That is nearly 50 years of work. As the community faces the next 50 years, strong structures are needed to support ever-increasing traffic volumes.

The bridges in Big Sky have undergone regular maintenance for years and can no longer be patched as they have been for interim fixes. To ensure these bridges remain safe for future generations, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is planning the **Big Sky Bridge Decks** project. Crews will improve three bridges by repairing or replacing each deck and paving over the surface.





KEY INFORMATION FOR TRAVELERS



- Construction will take place May - November. Traffic control set up 24/7. Workers on-site Monday through Friday during daylight hours.
- Drivers can expect to see single-lane closures with traffic alternating on one side of the bridge for each direction of travel.
- No complete closures are planned.
- A traffic signal will be in-place to stop and guide traffic.
- Delays of up to 15 minutes can be expected at each area.

STAY IN THE KNOW

The Montana Department of Transportation understands that many residents regularly commute over these structures. As such, we will make every effort to keep delays short and to communicate throughout construction. We encourage all to sign up for the weekly update:

-  **EMAIL:** Contact Takami at takami@bigskypublicrelations.com to subscribe.
-  **TEXT:** Text BIGSKYBRIDGES to 41411.*
-  **PROJECT HOTLINE:** 406-207-4484, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
-  **WEBSITE:** mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/bigskybridgedecks

*Please note that standard message and data rates may apply. We anticipate sending 1 update message per week and subscribers may request help by replying HELP or opt-out at anytime by replying STOP. Visit mdt.mt.gov/mdt/security_policy.shtml for terms and privacy policy.



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IMPROVEMENTS TO THREE BRIDGES



1. LITTLE COYOTE ROAD BRIDGE



Near the intersection of MT 64 and Little Coyote Road over the West Fork Gallatin River. This bridge deck will be fully replaced. Construction will occur at the same time as the Lone Mountain Trail Bridge.

2. LONE MOUNTAIN TRAIL BRIDGE



Near the intersection of MT 64 (Lone Mountain Trail) and U.S. 191 over the West Fork Gallatin River. This bridge deck will be repaired. Construction will occur at the same time as the Little Coyote Road Bridge.

3. HIGHWAY 191 BRIDGE



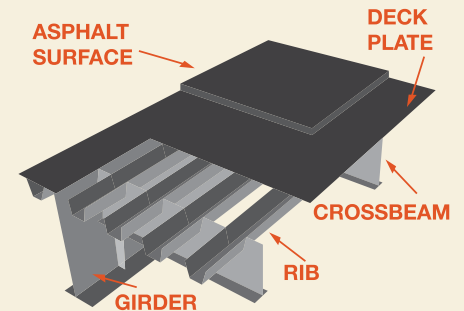
Located two miles north of the turn to Big Sky (MT 64) over the Gallatin River. This bridge deck will be repaired. Construction will occur after the Lone Mountain Trail and Little Coyote Road Bridges are complete.

BRIDGE DECKS HAVE MULTIPLE LAYERS

A bridge deck is the surface of a bridge for vehicles to drive on. Asphalt is only the surface-level portion – beneath it is a strong layer of concrete. These decks lay on top of supportive beams that are visible when looking underneath the bridge. A driver might perceive this entire structure as seamless with the rest of the roadway, as the asphalt is paved and marked similarly.

Once a bridge experiences a pothole or crack, crews might fill the area with pavement as a quick repair to ensure the full structure does not degrade further. If damage like this increases and affects the other layers, a full repair or replacement of the deck is needed.

For this project, workers are repairing the layers of deck in needed places. They will also mill the top layer, tearing it up, and pave it with new asphalt. One of the decks requires a replacement, meaning that the entire deck with all of its layers will be removed and a new one will be installed.



PROJECT KEY

1. Little Coyote Road Bridge
2. Lone Mountain Trail Bridge
3. Highway 191 Bridge

